

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information storage medium comprising  
a disc-like shape substrate having a center hole and  
a peripheral side, said medium comprising:

5           a data area configured to store or to record given  
information and being formed on the substrate;  
              a clamp area located outside the center hole and  
inside the data area; and

10          one or more notches or grooves provided on at  
least one of:

              a portion of the peripheral side,  
              another portion of the center hole, and  
              still another portion around the clamp area.

15          2. The medium of claim 1, wherein said medium is  
an optical disc formed of a single disc substrate.

3. The medium of claim 1, wherein said medium is  
an optical disc formed of double disc substrates being  
adhered together with a given adhesive.

20          4. The medium of claim 1, wherein said notch or  
groove is formed at a corner edge of the peripheral  
side.

25          5. The medium of claim 1, wherein said notches or  
grooves are formed at a corner edge of the peripheral  
side, such that one of the notches or grooves is  
located adjacent to the other of the notches or  
grooves.

6. The medium of claim 1, wherein one or more

40042336.021202

7004226.01A02  
pairs of said notches or grooves are formed at given separated portions of a corner edge of the peripheral side.

7. The medium of claim 1, wherein said notches or 5 grooves are formed at both corner edges of the peripheral side, such that one of the notches or grooves is located adjacent to the other of the notches or 10 grooves, and that one of the notches or grooves is physically different from the other of the notches or grooves in order to discriminate both plane sides of the medium according to the physically-different one 15 and the other notches or grooves.

8. The medium of claim 1, wherein said notches or 20 grooves are formed at both corner edges of the peripheral side, such that one of the notches or grooves is located in front of the other of the notches or grooves, and that one of the notches or grooves is physically different from the other of the notches or 25 grooves in order to discriminate both plane sides of the medium according to the physically-different one and the other notches or grooves.

9. The medium of claim 1, wherein said notch or groove contains one or more projections and/or one or more slots or openings.

10. The medium of claim 1, wherein said medium 25 comprises a front surface and a rear surface, and said data area is provided on the front surface.

11. The medium of claim 10, wherein said data area is provided on the rear surface.

12. The medium of claim 10, wherein a label area is provided on the rear surface.

5       13. The medium of claim 1, wherein said medium comprises a stack ring located at the clamp area, and the stack ring is provided with one or more of said notches or grooves.

10      14. The medium of claim 1, wherein said one or more notches or grooves is/are configured to indicate a type, or a kind, or a medium side, or contents of the medium.

15      15. A disc cartridge comprising:  
          a case configured to enclose an information storage disc, and having two opposite sides called side A and side B;  
          a first mark provided on a first portion of at least one of the two opposite sides of said case, said first mark serving to identify the side A or side B of said case; and

20      a second mark provided on a second portion of said case, said second mark serving to indicate a type, or a kind, or contents of the disc.

25      16. The cartridge of claim 15, wherein the second portion for said second mark is located close to the first portion for said first mark, such that a finger of a user's hand can touch said first and second marks

20042336-02742

at a time.

17. The cartridge of claim 15, wherein the second portion for said second mark is located at a given side of the case.

5 18. The cartridge of claim 15, wherein said second mark comprises one or more notches, grooves, slots, or openings.

10 19. An apparatus for recording information recorded on an information storage medium or reading information from the medium wherein said medium comprises one or more notches or grooves configured to indicate a type, or a kind, or a medium side, or contents of the medium, said apparatus comprising:

15 one or more detectors configured to detect a physical figure or state of the one or more of said notches or grooves; and

20 a control unit connected to said one or more detectors and configured to discriminate the type, kind, medium side, or contents of the medium according to the detected physical figure or state of the one or more of said notches or grooves.

25 20. An apparatus for recording information recorded on an information storage disc or reading information from the disc wherein said disc is enclosed in a case having two opposite sides called side A and side B, and said case comprises a specific mark serving to indicate a type, or a kind, or a medium side, or

contents of the disc, said apparatus comprising:

one or more detectors configured to detect  
a physical figure or state of said specific mark, and  
a control unit connected to said one or more  
detectors and configured to discriminate the type,  
kind, medium side, or contents of the medium according  
to the detected physical figure or state of said  
specific mark.